

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 14th November 2016

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Helen Taylor, David Fox, Graham Rees, Matthew Gerrie, Lorna Birse-Stewart, Stuart Paton, Cllr. Barbara Vaughan

There was also one member of the public present.

Apologies were received from Na'an McLure and Cllr. Grant Laing.

2. Agreement of minutes

The meeting minutes for 10th October 2016 had been previously distributed to members by email.

- Proposed by: Helen Taylor
- Seconded by: Graham Rees

3. Treasurer's report

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £496.03. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £332.95 (prior to the award of a micro-grant as below). Additionally, there is a balance of £173.40 remaining from the allocated grant for the provision and installation of defibrillators. This remaining budget will be used to support local training (i.e. room booking etc.).

A micro-grant bid had been received on behalf of the Parent Partnership Group of the Royal Dunkeld School, to support initial fundraising activities, connected to the commemoration of the school's 450th anniversary award of its Royal Charter. A micro-grant award was approved.

4. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Road Safety and Parking

As previously communicated, Lorna Birse-Stewart has prepared a review of road safety and parking within the Dunkeld and Birnam area. Over the past few months, a broad range of community consultation and engagement has taken place, in order to identify areas of concern

and to capture suggestions and recommendations for improving the current situation. In addition, David Levy has conducted a site visit with PKC, to discuss highlighted issues and establish the scope of potential changes, which may realistically be considered.

At the October meeting, David Levy asked members to further consider the latest draft of Lorna's paper, in order to prepare for an extended discussion at this (the November) meeting.

David Levy opened the discussion by expressing his sincere thanks, on behalf of all members, to Lorna for her ongoing hard work and commitment to this task.

An extended discussion then took place, the purpose of which being to establish a number of prioritised and achievable options for formal submission to PKC; following which it is anticipated that they will coordinate formal community consultation, prior to making recommendations and ultimately decisions as to work to be undertaken.

David Levy agreed to collate the agreed outcomes from the discussion and share with members for accuracy, before making a written submission to PKC.

b) Roads

Stuart Paton reminded everyone of the existence of the Birnam to Ballinluig A9 Working Group, which encourages local people or anyone with an interest in doing so to sign up to the working group newsletter by emailing the following:

dunkelda9workinggroup@gmail.com

As previously communicated, a period of enhanced local consultation (a co-creative process) will inform recommendations, for subsequent submission to the Scottish Government as to 'dualling' options for the Birnam to Ballinluig stretch. Of particular note is that previous 'dualling' options for this stretch of the A9, which were off the table, will now be reconsidered during enhanced consultation with the community. Further details will be communicated via the working group newsletter and The Bridge.

c) Windfarms – David Levy wished to record the thanks of members to Mr. Alan Wylie for his is work in representing the CC at the ongoing 'Crossburns' windfarm inquiry.

In respect of the proposed 'Dullater' windfarm inquiry, Stuart Paton will represent our CC on the community group and will attend its first meeting in two weeks' time, following which he will report back to members at the December CC meeting.

d) Correspondence/Website

David Fox informed the meeting of the receipt of a letter from the Perth & Kinross Fair-trade Steering Group, requesting CC support in their bid for Fair Trade Zone status across the whole of Perth and Kinross. Each ward has an elected representative, ours being Cllr. Grant Laing. In Cllr. Laing's absence, it was agreed to postpone a discussion on the matter until December, when Grant will be present.

PKC has requested CCs to comment on their plans to close a number of public telephone kiosks, based on the number of calls made. Our area has four such phone boxes in which public notices were placed in August, highlighting a number of options for local people, including purchase of the box for £1 (without service), an option to formally object to the closure, or otherwise to locally fund the continuance of the service. The phone box locations are:

Amulree Village Hall – 9 calls in 12 months
Inchewan, Birnam – 1 call in 12 months
High Street Dunkeld – 75 calls in 12 months
Willowbank, Birnam – 3 calls in 12 months

Members were surprised that the Dunkeld High Street box was included in the list for removal, given the comparatively high number of calls and its central location. In the absence of information as to any community intentions for the other three phone boxes, it was agreed that the CC should seek to purchase them. David Levy agreed to write to represent the above views to PKC.

A number of articles and items of correspondence have been forwarded for publishing on the website.

e) Community Resilience

David Fox recently took part in a Community Resilience Workshop. The event, which was arranged by PKC, was designed to raise awareness of community resilience representatives, provide an opportunity to test local resilience plans and share best practice.

Our 'Local Resilience Plan' will be published in The Bridge in the near future. There is also an intention to launch a local Community Resilience Group at a future date to be defined. Further updates and details will be provided via The Bridge in due course.

f) Culture & Events

Na'an McLure was not in attendance. There were no items of note.

g) Policing

David Fox informed the group that Police Scotland would be unable to attend future meetings, due to limited resources. However, David will act as a conduit with the local Police representative and will feed back any information as necessary.

A conversation took place with regard to speeding motorists within the 20 MPH zone in Dunkeld. Several members reported seeing buses speeding through the village. Stuart Paton agreed to write to Stagecoach and request that they brief their drivers accordingly.

The weekly Police 'Commander's Bulletin' is routinely forwarded for publication on The Bridge website. There have been no other local incidents of note, mentioned on the bulletin.

All residents are advised to report any ongoing suspicious activity to the Police using the emergency 999 number. Any non-urgent information can be passed to the Police through their single non-emergency number on **101**, or should the caller wish to remain anonymous, via '**Crimestoppers**' on **0800 555 111**.

h) Environment/Planning

There were no new planning applications. Helen Taylor had reviewed the recently approved planning applications. There were no issues of note.

i) Broadband

The recently installed 'microwave' broadband in Dalguise is working well. The initiative was funded by PGL, working with HPCP.

The Lunan Valley broadband project, incorporating the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree areas has progressed towards invitations to tender. Graham Rees indicated that there is an expectation that the project would be completed by the end of 2018, due to funding restrictions. Stuart Paton represents the Strathbraan/Trochry/Amulree communities on the Lunan Valley broadband group.

Members discussed their concerns as to the future capability of HPCP to manage its currently supported Broadband infrastructure assets, in light of apparent organisational difficulties.

5. A.O.B.

Highland & Strathtay Community Action Partnership

David Levy informed the group that Fiona Ritchie has agreed to represent the local community as a member of the Highland & Strathtay Community Action Partnership. David wished to record his thanks to Fiona for agreeing to take on the role.

Post Office services in Dunkeld and Birnam

David Levy informed the group of concerns expressed to him, by a local resident, as to the different services offered by the Dunkeld and Birnam Post Offices. This means that people, who may be elderly or infirm, need to travel between Post Offices depending on which service they require. It was unclear as to what the service differences are or reasons for them however David Levy has advised accordingly.

Missing Bollard at Little Dunkeld A9 junction

A recent accident at the above junction destroyed the illuminated bollard, which makes the junction difficult to identify and navigate in the dark or in poor weather conditions. Cllr. Vaughan agreed to approach PKC to request immediate replacement.

The meeting closed at 9:55 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 12th December at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.

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